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Friday, June 30, 1995

## OVERVIEW

## Weekly earnings decline

Employees' average weekly earnings declined for the second consecutive month in April.

Manufacturing shipments continue to fall

Manufacturers' shipments fell for the third straight month in April. Not since the first quarter of 1991 have shipments fallen three months in a row.

Number of U.I. beneficiaries drops again
In April, the number of Canadians receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits dropped $2.4 \%$ from March.

## Industrial prices stable

Industrial prices were unchanged in May, as a drop in the value of the U.S. dollar and price declines in lumber and non-ferrous primary metals offset newsprint and gasoline price increases.

Raw material prices down in May Raw material prices fell in May. The wood sector was the only major raw materials group to see prices rise.

## Foreigners spend massively on

 Canadian securitiesIn April, foreigners purchased a net $\$ 5.9$ billion in Canadian securities, their largest monthly investment since January 1994

## Weekly earnings decline

Average weekly earnings foll to \$5F0.A5inApril, a $0.4 \%$ decrease from March and the Tsetond consedutive monthly drop. The decline was due mainly ta-lower earnings for salaried employees and was concentrated in most service industries, particularly in retail and wholesale trade, business services, and finance, insurance and real estate. Average weekly earnings rose in logging and forestry, construction, and transportation, communication and other utilities. Earnings were stable in the mining, quarrying and oil wells industry. Weekly earnings stood $0.8 \%$ higher than in April 1994.

Employees paid by the hour received $\$ 14.21$ per hour in April, down marginally from the previous month, although they worked longer hours. The average number of hours worked per week, generally rising during 1994, has settled at 30.8 hours per week to date in 1995.

Businesses employed 24,000 more people in April than in the preceding month. The increases in March and April offset some of the declines experienced since the beginning of the year. Despite these advances,
(continued on page 2)

\% change, previous year


## ... Weekly earnings decline

employment levels were 40,000 lower than the December 1994 peak. Businesses across many industries reported small gains in April, with the largest coming from the manufacturing industry ( 9,000 employees). The gain in manufacturing was spread across most provinces and was widespread for manufacturers of food, rubber products, clothing, fabricated metals, machinery, and electrical and electronic products.
For further information, order Employment, earnings and hours (catalogue 72-002) or contact Stephen Johnson, Labour Division at (613) 9514090.

Avarngo wsekly aarnings, April 1995
Seasonally adjusted

| Province/Territory | Industrial <br> aggregate <br> $(\$)$ | \% change, <br> previous <br> month | \% chang <br> previou <br> yet |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Canada | 570.25 | -0.4 | 0.6 |
| Newfoundland | 532.17 | -2.4 | 0.7 |
| Prince Edward Island | 453.70 | -0.6 | -1.9 |
| Nova Sootia | 494.72 | 0.7 | -0.6 |
| New Brunswick | 516.28 | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| Quebec | 545.04 | -0.7 | 0.3 |
| Ontario | 606.41 | -0.6 | 0.7 |
| Manitoba | 499.43 | -0.7 | 0.2 |
| Saskatchewan | 489.19 | -0.1 | 0.8 |
| Alberta | 553.58 | -0.7 | 0.6 |
| British Columbia | 59.99 | 0.4 | 3.4 |
| Yukon | 666.04 | -4.3 | -5.1 |
| Northwest Territories | 705.90 | 0.2 | -2.4 |

## Manufacturing shipments continue to fall

In April, manufacturers' shipments fell for the third consecutive month, led by the ailing motor vehicle industry. Not since the first quarter of 1991 have shipments fallen three months in a row. Seasonally adjusted shipments declined $1.1 \%$ to $\$ 31.7$ billion. Despite these decreases, shipments were $12 \%$ higher than in April 1994. Manufacturers in 16 of the 22 major groups (accounting for $63 \%$ of shipments) posted declines, while 6 posted increases.

The largest monthly decline in value was in the transportation equipment industry, where weak North American demand was behind a $3.3 \%$ drop. Manufacturers have cut motor vehicle shipments 20.9\% since January 1995, and production has been

Manufacturers' Shipments, April 1995
Unadjusted data (Adjusted data not available by province)

| Province | \$ millions | \% change <br> previous year |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Canada | 31,148 | 10.0 |
| Newfoundland |  |  |
| Prince Edward Island | 85 | -12.2 |
| Nova Scotia | 41 | 4.8 |
| New Brunswick | 469 | 2.9 |
| Quebec | 608 | 21.2 |
| Ontario | 7,524 | 9.7 |
| Manitoba | 16,560 | 10.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 616 | 7.7 |
| Alberta | 401 | 10.0 |
| British Columbia | 2,153 | 10.1 |



## ... Manufacturing shipments continue to fall

Higher prices allowed the refined petroleum and coal industry to post April's largest increase in shipments (5.9\%).

Inventories rose $1.1 \%$ in April, compared with an average growth of $1.8 \%$ over the previous four months. Larger inventories of electrical and electronic products, primary metals, and paper and allied products accounted for the bulk of this Increase. Rising inventories and falling shipments led to the highest value in the inventories-toshipments ratio (1.36) since February 1994. If inventories continue their rapid growth while shipments continue to stumble, manufacturers may be obliged to cut production.

Unfilled orders fell for the first time since November $1993(-0.4 \%)$. New orders decreased $2.6 \%$, following declines in February and March. The decline was due mainly to large drops in transportation equipment and fabricated metal products.
For further information, order Monthly survey of manufacturing (catalogue 31-001) or contact Robert Traversy, Industry Division at (613) 951-9497. (See also "Current trends" on page 9.)

## Number of U.I. beneficiaries drops again

In April, the number of Canadians receiving regular unemployment insurance (U.I.) benefits dropped $2.4 \%$ from March, to 721,000 . The number of beneficiaries declined throughout the country except in Manitoba and Alberta, and year-over-year decreases were observed across Canada. Since the peak in July 1992, when there were 1.2 million beneficiaries, this number has dropped $40.1 \%$.

Employment levels (as recorded by the Labour Force Survey) have shown little change so far in 1995. The unemployment rate fell in April because fewer people were looking for work. Long-term unemployment levels (those looking for work for more than a year) have remained high into 1995. All this, plus the tighter eligibility requirements introduced in July 1994, suggests that fewer people are eligible for benefits
U.I. beneficiaries receiving regular benefits, April 1995
Seasonally adjusted

| Provinceterritory | Total <br> ('000) | \%change, <br> previous <br> month | \%change, <br> previous <br> year |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Canada | 721 | -2.4 | -21.9 |
| Newfoundland | 38 | -0.3 | -28.1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 10 | -2.3 | -17.2 |
| Nova Scotia | 38 | -2.5 | -22.9 |
| New Brunswick | 43 | -1.7 | -18.1 |
| Quebec | 250 | -2.8 | -19.9 |
| Ontario | 180 | -3.8 | -24.9 |
| Manitoba | 19 | 1.7 | -20.7 |
| Saskatchewan | 15 | -1.0 | -24.8 |
| Alberta | 52 | 2.5 | -15.6 |
| British Columbia | 77 | -6.1 | -23.0 |
| Yukon | 1 | -0.2 | -23.4 |
| Northwest Territories | 1 | -2.4 | -16.0 |

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benelits


## Note to readers

The majority who collect unemployment insurance benefits receive regular benefits ( $78.2 \%$ in April). In order to qualify for regular benefits, a person must have experienced an interruption of earnings, be capable of and available for work, and be unable to find suitable employment.

In addition to regular benefits, claimants can qualify for special benefits (e.g., training, maternity, sickness and fishing).

Data on the number of beneficiaries relate to a specific week of the reference month. Data on benefit payments, benefit weeks and claims refer to a complete calendar month. Unless otherwise noted, all data are seasonally adjusted.

The number of individuals submitting claims for U.I. fell $1.3 \%$ from March. Year-to-date claims are $1.6 \%$ lower (unadjusted) than in the same period last year.
(continued on page 4)
... Number of C.i. beneficiaries drops again
Canadians received $\$ 1.3$ billion in benefits in April, down $15.7 \%$ from April 1994. Comparing the same month in previous years, this was the lowest level since April 1990, when $\$ 1.2$ billion was paid.

In April, $44.5 \%$ of the male beneficiaries receiving regular benefits had weekly insurable earnings of more than $\$ 600$. This compares with $12.6 \%$ for female beneficiaries, who receive less benefits on average because benefits are calculated as a percentage of insurable earnings.

The proportion of male beneficiarits wi weekly insurable earnings of $\$ 600$ or more increas with age. For males aged 45 and over receivit regular benefits, the proportion was 57.0 compared with $13.9 \%$ of females in the same rans and age group. For the 24 -and-under age grou $52.7 \%$ of males and $78.7 \%$ of females had insurab earnings under $\$ 400$. This is partly because mot young people work part time and in entry leva positions where earnings are lower.
For further information, order Unemploymen insurance statistics (catalogue 73-001) or conten Adib Farhat, Labour Division at (613) 951 -4045.

## Industrial prices stable in May

Industrial prices were unchanged in May, as a drop in the value of the U.S. dollar and price declines in lumber and industrial non-ferrous primary metals offset price increases for newsprint and gasoline. The 12 -month change in industrial prices dropped to $8.4 \%$ in May, the third decline in the last four months.

The lower U.S. dollar accounted for most of the $0.7 \%$ decline in the price level of autos, trucks, and other transport equipment. It also affected exporters of lumber, pulp, paper, and non-ferrous metals. The movement in the U.S. dollar reduced the month-tomonth change in industrial prices from $0.2 \%$ (excluding the effect of the exchange rate) to zero.

Lumber, sawmill, and other wood product prices fell a further $1.8 \%$ in May. Inventory levels outweighed the effect of any increase in residential construction as interest rates fell in Canada and the United States. Poor auto sales, low residential construction, sales from world metal inventories, and ore discoveries all contributed to the declines in the prices of all the major industrial non-ferrous primary metal products.

An $8.1 \%$ jump in newsprint prices accounted for virtually the entire increase in the price level of paper and paper products, which remained the most significant source of upward pressure on industrial prices. World demand for newsprint remains strong and the industry is already operating at full capacity.

Gasoline prices, the other main element exerting upward pressure on industrial prices, increased $3.8 \%$. This jump occurred despite the May decline in crude oil prices.

The 12 -month change in industrial prices of consumer goods rose to almost $3.5 \%$. It had been about $3 \%$ since January. Over the same period, consumer prices for goods rose $3 \%$. During the first quarter, the operating profits of retailers jumped by over $50 \%$, as the gap between the 12 -month change


## Note to readers

The industrial product price index (IPPI) reflects the prices producers receive as goods leave their plants. It is not indicative of what consumers pay. Unlike the consumer price index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all costs (including transportation, wholesale, and retail costs) that occur between when a good leaves a plant and when a final user takes possession.

Since Canadian export producers often quote prices in foreign currencies, exchange rate movements affect the IPPI. A $1.0 \%$ change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar changes the IPPI by about $0.2 \%$.
in prices at the consumer and the manufacturer level narrowed. Only about half of what the consumer pays goes to manufacturers.
For further information, order Industry price indexes (catalogue 62-011) or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-3350.

## Raw material prices down in May

Raw material prices fell $1.1 \%$ between April and May. The year-over-year increase slowed to almost $9 \%$ after remaining above $13 \%$ for the previous six months.

Wood prices, led by continuing high demand for pulp and paper, rose more than $1 \%$ - the only major raw materials group to record a price increase in May. Wood prices rose almost $17 \%$ from May 1994. They are expected to stay strong in the near future. Even if there is an economic slowdown in the United States and Canada, wood can be marketed overseas at a price significantly higher than the domestic price.

Non-ferrous metal prices weakened again. Copper led the decline, as the slowing economy and the perception that high copper prices cannot be maintained pushed prices down. Prices for aluminum, nickel, gold, lead, zinc, and platinum were also down.

Crude oil prices fell $2 \%$ in May after rising nearly every month since December 1994. Higher gasoline inventories reduced somewhat the upward pressure on crude oil prices.

Cattle prices fell again ( $-5 \%$ ), bringing the decline since February to almost $13 \%$. Excess supply of available animals and of beef in cold storage caused this weakness. Hog prices rose $6 \%$, as fewer animals than usual were brought to market. May's price increase offset somewhat the $8 \%$ drop in hog prices since February.

Vegetable product prices declined almost $1 \%$ from April, as higher prices for grains were more than offset by lower prices for oilseeds, unrefined sugar, rubber, and coffee.

Raw material prices


## Note to readers

The raw materials price index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these are set in the world market. Unlike the industrial product price index, the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

For further information, order Industry price indexes (catalogue 62-011) or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-3350.

## Foreigners spend massively on Canadian securities

In April, non-residents purchased a massive $\$ 5.9$ billion more securities than they sold, the largest monthly investment since January 1994. At the same time, Canadian investors reduced by $\$ 1.0$ billion their holdings of foreign securities, driven by a record $\$ 1.3$ billion sell-off of foreign bonds. Canadians did, however, continue to purchase foreign stocks. These were split evenly between U.S. and overseas equities.

April represented the second consecutive month of heavy foreign buying ( $\$ 3.0$ billion) of Canadian short-term instruments, concentrated in Government of Canada treasury bills. Encouraged by a
firmer Canadian dollar, Asian and European investors collectively purchased $\$ 4.3$ billion of money market paper, while U.S. investors sold $\$ 1.3$ billion. Trading activity (purchases and sales) fell $25 \%$ to $\$ 48$ billion following the sharp rise in March.

Foreigners made their largest investment in Canadian bonds since July 1994 by purchasing $\$ 3.0$ billion in April. New issues remained strong at $\$ 2.9$ billion against a background of falling interest rates. The federal government and corporations were the largest issuers, while the provinces, which have led foreign bond borrowings so far this year, were absent. Retirements were modest at $\$ 0.7$ billion. Non-residents bought $\$ 0.8$ billion in outstanding bonds, in contrast to their general selling over the past two years.
... Foreigners spend massively on Canadian securities

Foreign selling of Canadian stocks slowed to a marginal $\$ 0.1$ billion in April. This brought to $\$ 2.7$ billion their net selling since November 1994. Canadian stock prices, as measured by the TSE 300 Index, registered a small decline. (In contrast, U.S. stock prices continued to rise.) Trading activity fell $17 \%$ to $\$ 5.2$ billion in April, reversing a similar gain in March.
For further information, order Canada's international transaction in securities (catalogue 67-002) or contact Don Granger, Balance of Payments Division at (613) 951-1864.

Foreign anvestment in Canadian securities ${ }^{3}$

${ }^{1}$ Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JUNE 23 TO JUNE 29, 1995

| Division/title of publication | Period | Catalogue number | Price: Issue/Subscription |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Canada (Cdn.\$) | United States | Other countries |
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Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation
Production and disposition of tobacco products
Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills in British Columbia
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The sugar situation

| April 1995 | $35-001$ | $6 / 60$ | $8 / 72$ | $9 / 84$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| May 1995 | $36-004$ | $6 / 60$ | $8 / 72$ | $9 / 84$ |
|  | $26-006$ | $18 / 180$ | $22 / 216$ | $26 / 252$ |
| March 1995 | $55-002$ | $16 / 160$ | $20 / 200$ | $23 / 230$ |
| March 1995 | $44-004$ | $6 / 60$ | $8 / 72$ | $9 / 84$ |
| May 1995 | $32-022$ | $6 / 60$ | $8 / 72$ | $9 / 84$ |
| May 1995 |  |  |  |  |
|  | $35-003$ | $8 / 80$ | $10 / 96$ | $12 / 112$ |
| April 1995 | $52-001$ | $10 / 100$ | $12 / 120$ | $14 / 140$ |
| April 1995 | $32-013$ | $6 / 60$ | $8 / 72$ | $9 / 84$ |
| May 1995 |  |  |  |  |

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

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LABOUR
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## ${ }^{\text {rt }}$ quarter 1995 <br> 63-016 <br> 63-011

 199356-203
Jan.-Mar. 1995
Jan.-Mar. 1995
1994
1994

$65-0030 \times \mathrm{XB}$
60/200
120/400
100
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73-202S
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34/112
7/70
39

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20/194

54

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## CURRENT TRENDS

Gross domestic product


Real gross domestic product fell $0.7 \%$ in March. First quarter growth was only $0.2 \%$.

Consumer price index
\% change, previous year


Consumers paid 2.9\% more for goods and services in May 1995 than the year before. Food prices rose by 3.1\%.

## Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments fell $1.1 \%$ in April to $\$ 31.7$ billion. The level of unfilled orders dropped 0.4\% to $\$ 34.3$ billion.

Composite index
\% change,
previous month


In May 1995, the composite index declined 0.2\% from the month before.


In May, the unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage points to $9.5 \%$.

## Merchandise trade



The value of merchandise exports fell $0.6 \%$ in April, to $\$ 20.5$ billion. Imports dropped $0.1 \%$ to $\$ 18.8$ billion.

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

|  | Period | Level | Change, previous period |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GENERAL |  |  |  |  |
| Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1986) | March | 540.2 | -0.7\% | 2.8 |
| Composite index ( $1981=100$ ) | May | 173.8 | -0.2\% | 5.0 |
| Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion) | $1^{\text {st }}$ quarter | 23.7 | 6.2\% | 42.2 |
| DOMESTIC DEMAND |  |  |  |  |
| Retail trade (\$ billion) | April | 17.5 | 0.2\% | $3.2 \%$ |
| New motor vehicle sales ('000 units) | April | 88.7 | -9.2\% | -13.99 |
| LABOUR |  |  |  |  |
| Employment (millions) | May | 13.5 | 0.0\% | 1.97 |
| Unemployment rate (\%) | May | 9.5 | $0.1{ }^{\text {+ }}$ | $-1.1{ }^{+}$ |
| Participation rate (\%) | May | 64.9 | $0.0{ }^{+}$ | -0.4 ${ }^{+}$ |
| Labour income (\$ billion) | March | 34.5 | -0.4\% | 3.47 |
| Average weekly earnings (\$) | April* | 570.25 | -0.4\% | $0.8 \%$ |
| INTERNATIONAL TRADE |  |  |  |  |
| Merchandise exports (\$ billion) | April | 20.5 | -0.6\% | 19.7\% |
| Merchandise imports (\$ billion) | April | 18.8 | -0.1\% | 16.4\% |
| Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion) | April | 1.8 | -0.1 | 0.7 |
| MANUFACTURING |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments (\$ billion) | April* | 31.7 | -1.1\% | 12.0\% |
| New orders (\$ billion) | April* | 31.5 | -2.6\% | 8.1\% |
| Unfilled orders (\$ billion) | April* | 34.3 | -0.4\% | 11.6\% |
| Inventory/ shipments ratio | April* | 1.36 | 0.03 | 0.04 |
| Capacity utilization (\%) | $1^{\text {st }}$ quarter | 84.8 | $0.0{ }^{+}$ | $4.3{ }^{+}$ |
| PRICES |  |  |  |  |
| Consumer price index ( $1986=100$ ) | May | 133.7 | 0.2\% | 2.9\% |
| Industrial product price index $(1986=100)$ | May* | 127.7 | 0.0\% | 8.4\% |
| Raw materials price index ( $1986=100$ ) | May* | 132.4 | -1.1\% | 8.9\% |
| New housing price index ( $1986=100$ ) | April | 135.2 | -0.1\% | -0.7\% |

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

* new this week
${ }^{\dagger}$ percentage point


## $I^{\bullet} N^{\bullet} \mathrm{F}^{\bullet} \mathrm{O}^{\bullet} \mathrm{M}^{\bullet} \mathrm{A}^{\bullet} \mathrm{T}$

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| 3 | 4 |  |  | 7 |
|  |  | Building permits, May | Help-wanted index, June | Labour force survey, June <br> Estimates of labour income, April |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|  | New motor vehicle sales, May <br> New housing price index, May |  | Labour force income profiles, 1993 |  |
| 17 | 18 | 19 |  | 21 |
| Monthly survey of manufacturing, May Composite index, June | Canadian international trade, May <br> Travel between Canada and other countries, May | Consumer price index, June <br> Canada's international transactions in services, 1993-1994 | Retail trade, May | Wholesale trade, May |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|  | Canada's international transactions in securities, May <br> Economic dependency profiles, 1993 | Private and public investment in Canada, 1995 revised intentions <br> Unemployment insurance, May | Industrial product price index, June <br> Raw materials price index, June | Employment, earnings and hours, May |
| 31 |  |  |  |  |
| Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, May <br> Health reports, July |  |  |  |  |

- Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series may change.

